

own highly touted school reform program, the No Child Left Behind Act.

Senator Edward Kennedy, who had worked closely with the president on the school reform legislation, said yesterday, "As soon as the Klieg lights were off and the bunting came down, the Bush administration turned its back on school reform and America's children."

Looming over this calculated assault on programs of crucial importance to millions of Americans is Mr. Bush's colossal accumulation of tax cuts for the wealthy and an endless mountain range of federal budget deficits. The ideologues on the right are close to realizing their dream of crippling social services by starving the government of revenues.

Dr. J. Lawrence Aber, director of the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University, said yesterday:

"These cuts are tearing at what was emerging as a bipartisan consensus at the end of the last administration that the unfinished agenda on welfare reform was to create the work and family supports necessary to continue to help people move from welfare to work."

Tip O'Neill once said of Ronald Reagan, "He has no concern, no regard, no care for the little man of America."

George W. Bush is making the Gipper look like a softy.

Policies that affect the poor and working poor seldom get sustained attention. In an atmosphere of terror and impending war, Mr. Bush's approach to social services is getting even shorter shrift than usual. The policies he is attempting to put in place would largely overturn the notion we've had of a federal responsibility for programs to help struggling Americans. Mr. Bush would turn much of that responsibility over to the states, which are struggling with backbreaking budget problems of their own that are forcing drastic reductions in state services.

The collective result would be a long-term abandonment of the most needy among us. It's difficult to square that with the idea of compassion, conservative or otherwise.

MARCH 24, 2003.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER DODD (D-CT),
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: The Afterschool Alliance is pleased to endorse your proposed amendment to the fiscal year 2004 Senate Budget Resolution providing the fully authorized funding level for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. More than 15 million school aged children lack a safe, supervised place to spend their afterschool hours—where they can get academic support and have the opportunity to take part in art, music, athletic and other enrichment activities. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program provides critical support to communities throughout the nation to create and expand high quality afterschool programming.

According to the law enforcement community, the afterschool hours are when youth are most at risk. Juvenile crime triples between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Studies show that students who have no access to extracurricular activities are much more likely to get involved with drug use and become teen parents.

Beyond safety, high quality afterschool programs are helping kids learn new skills and perform better in schools. A study just released by The Afterschool Corporation reported that 84 percent of principals in New York credited afterschool programs with improved overall effectiveness of their schools.

Afterschool programs are increasingly popular among parents and other community leaders. Nine out of ten voters think that all

children should have access to afterschool programs. Nationally, more than 50 percent of teens wish there were more afterschool programs available as well. In other words, afterschool programs work and are popular with the people who need them most.

At a time when safety is high on everyone's list of concerns, funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program should continue to grow—not be the target of deep cuts in the federal budget. The 40% cut proposed by the President in his fiscal year 2004 budget would deny 570,000 children and youth the afterschool programming they now receive. It would hurt them, their families and their communities. Support for the Dodd Afterschool/Headstart amendment is a vote in favor of kids, working families and local schools and communities.

Sincerely,

JUDY SAMELSON.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS,
Washington, DC, March 24, 2003.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the thousands of sheriffs, police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims who constitute the national anti-crime group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, we urge you to support amendments to the Fiscal Year 2004 budget resolution that increase funding for key investments that can keep kids from growing up to become criminals.

Specifically, we urge you to support the amendment offered by Sen. Christopher Dodd to increase funding for Head Start and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the amendment offered by Sen. Jeff Bingaman to increase funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$4.6 billion over five years (to the level in the tripartisan reauthorization bill reported out of the Finance Committee last year), as well as any other amendments supporting similar investments.

As leaders on the front-line in the battle against crime, our members know that the best way to prevent crime is to invest in programs that keep kids from becoming criminals in the first place. Research and experience prove that crime and violence can be greatly reduced through quality early childhood and after-school programs.

For example, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association of the Chicago Child-Parent Centers early childhood education program found that children left out of the program were 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18. A study of the Quantum Opportunities after-school program showed that boys left out of the program averaged six times more criminal convictions in their high school years than the boys who attended the after-school program.

Unfortunately, programs that support these types of activities are drastically under-funded. Only six in ten children eligible for Head Start can participate in the program, only one in seven eligible for the Child Care and Development Block Grant can receive subsidies, and less than 5% of eligible kids can participate in Early Head Start. In addition, 75% of the requests for 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school grants have to be turned down due to a lack of funding, leaving more than 10 million children and teens home alone after school on a regular basis.

Investing in children is the most effective investment that our nation can make in long-term growth, and will pay off in crime reduction and other benefits for years to come. These programs not only better the lives of children and prevent crime, but also save money and help grow the economy in the long run. The Chicago Child-Parent Centers saved the public \$7 for every \$1 invested,

and the Quantum Opportunities program saved the public \$3 for every \$1 invested.

Please support crime-reducing amendments to the budget that will provide more families with access to quality early education and care and force fewer parents to leave their child unattended during the peak hours of juvenile crime from 3-6 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 202-776-0027 ext. 143.

Sincerely,

SANFORD A. NEWMAN,
President.
MIRIAM A. ROLLIN,
Federal Policy Director.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Who yields time?

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, in the Head Start and early education programs, we have increased those by 800 percent—800 percent—in the last decade. In this budget, we have a significant increase in Head Start. In fact, we are putting so much money into Head Start already that about 7 percent of the slots in Head Start are not even filled. We have so much money in this program, in a number of parts of this country they cannot find the kids to put into the programs.

It is really inappropriate for us to fund it in a way which is excessive. We are doing a strong and effective job in the area of funding Head Start and early education programs. I hope we defeat this amendment as spending which is unnecessary at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back?

Mr. GREGG. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 10 additional seconds.

Kids are being—

Mr. NICKLES. Regular order.

Mr. DODD. There is a huge need for this program in the country.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 415.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER), is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Akaka	Breaux	Corzine
Baucus	Byrd	Daschle
Bayh	Cantwell	Dayton
Biden	Carpenter	Dodd
Bingaman	Clinton	Dorgan
Boxer	Conrad	Durbin